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Transmile Group to review involvement in overseas projects

Trina Thomas Raj

EXPRESS freight and passenger carrier Transmile Group Bhd would utilise its funds in Malaysia and review its strategy to tackle overseas projects in light of the current economic situation, chairman Mirzan Mahathir said.

"We will position ourselves in the country now and when the economy picks up and the ringgit stabilises, we will be in a better position to invest in overseas projects," Mirzan told newsmen when discussing Transmile's project in Sri Lanka.

Last September, Transmile signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sri Lankan Government to carry out a detailed feasibility study on a proposed air cargo hub terminal to handle the transshipment of air cargo.

Transmile was also supposed to design, construct and manage the proposed terminal at the Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo.

Speaking after Transmile Group's extraordinary general meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, he said the company which operates Transmile Air Services Sdn Bhd, is expected to expand its aircraft leasing, spares and support businesses to accommodate the growth in air cargo and passenger transport operations arising from new contracts.

"Our aircraft are flying at full capacity, so we will have to lease or purchase new ones if we receive new contracts," Mirzan said.

The company has seven Boeing 737-200s and four Cessna grand caravan aircraft which are used for passenger and cargo flights.

"The growth in air cargo express delivery within the region is significant and we are poised to take advantage of it," he said.

Transmile is involved in aircraft trading and leasing, spares and accessories and engineering, technical and maintenance services, ground handling, air passenger and cargo transport, besides others.

Transmile has forecast an increase in its consolidated profit before tax but after minority interest of RM111.18 million for the year ending Dec 31, 1998.

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